



## You can have a pressure sore and still be mobile!



G'day!

I recently had the opportunity to visit a friend in the beautiful King Valley in Northern Victoria. When I saw Daryl and his wife Gil last year, Daryl had spent most of the previous year in bed with a fairly acute pressure sore. By acute, read fist sized hole to and around the major bone in the sitting region. Daryl, with some pride, now tells me that one of our major wound specialist's has taken snaps of this masterpiece at 2 weekly intervals to present at a seminar in France. He now claims to have had portraits of his bum shown in some of the major viewing platforms in Paris; I'm not sure if the Louvre comes under this category or not!

I might now add that Daryl feels that he has given up quite a few of life's pleasures in the interest of being a good high-level quad, but a reduction in good, healthy food intake is not somewhere that he is going to go! Consequently, there has been some transition from a lean, mean, fighting machine to more of a comfort model,



Yogi Bear type physique. This is fine until the advent of a pressure sore and the impossibility of any repair while sitting.

This led to where Daryl was at last year, under considerable physical, mental and emotional stress from an enforced, lengthy confinement to the mattress, albeit one of the fancy air pressure models. In an effort to resolve this situation, Gil took to the Internet and located [www.aquilacorp.com](http://www.aquilacorp.com). Here Gil discovered their Airpulse PK model cushion. This cushion has individual cells that are monitored by a computerised pump, is specifically tailored to an individuals dimensions and can have constant zero pressure at the site of a pressure sore.



This has led to a restoration of life for Daryl, allowing his gradual development until he is now sitting in his chair for up to 8 hours a day, still with a marble sized pressure sore that is continuing to heal! To me, the remarkable part of this tale (pun intended) is that recovery can occur while there is still reasonable mobility; something that has certainly made a profound difference to Daryl and Gil's quality of life. Gil has also mentioned that the service provided by Aquilacorp is in the exceptional range and she can't speak highly enough of their support.

Of course there is a downside to this, and that is the cost (around A\$3000), although Gil makes a fairly logical argument in favour of cushions and mattresses being issued to high level quads on discharge in the interests of saving long-term dollars to the health system. I don't suggest holding your breath waiting for this to happen; in the meantime you could investigate the website above or get contact details for myself or Daryl and Gil through the AQA number (03) 9489 0777 or FreeCall 1800 999 128 (country Vic and Tassy members only).

**By Kevin Bailey**